

Abstract

The identification of a leak in the intake port (1) of an internal combustion engine (3) with lambda regulation (8) can be performed by the generation of an evaluation signal in accordance with a control signal of the lambda regulation (8) and the monitoring of the evaluation signal with respect to the transgression of a limiting value. If a leak occurs in the intake port (1), the internal combustion engine (3) receives an additional air mass, which is not registered by an air mass sensor (2). The additional air mass is compensated by the lambda regulation (8) by means of an increase in the value of the control signal, in such a way that the likewise increased value of the evaluation signal can be used for identifying leaks in the intake port (1). In this way, it is possible to determine, in particular, if a crank housing ventilation (5) of the internal combustion engine (3) is still connected correctly to the intake port (1).